

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, March 15, 2021****6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing and Regular Session, it being the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman / Interim County Manager**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING: **Whether the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, North Carolina Should Approve a Proposed Installment Financing Agreement to Finance a Portion of the Cost of Various Projects and Whether Said County Should Acquire Certain School Property Included in Such Projects:** the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input from any interested party.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Bullard opened the Public Hearing and stated this Public Hearing is to discuss Whether the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, North Carolina, Should Approve a Proposed Installment Financing Agreement to Finance a Portion of the Cost of Various Projects and Whether Said County Should Acquire Certain School Property Included in Such Projects. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input from any interested party.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for comments. No comments were received either orally or written.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:31 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

6:31 P.M.**REGULAR SESSION:**

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3: **MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

At 6:31 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the March 15, 2021 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Lavern Coleman. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Giles Byrd.

Agenda Item #4: **BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the February 09, 2021 Joint Meeting with Whiteville City Schools, the February 15, 2021 Special Called Meeting, and the February 15, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: APPROVAL OF MARCH 15, 2021 AGENDA:

Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the March 15, 2021 Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PRESENTATION - PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to CADE STRICKLAND:

Chairman Ricky Bullard requested Board approval and adoption of the following Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Cade Strickland.

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION
to
CADE STRICKLAND**

WHEREAS, since being chartered in 1808, Columbus County has been very blessed with many dedicated and determined students who excel in their talents and abilities; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is blessed to have a young man who exercised his strengths, namely ***CADE STRICKLAND***, to win the **North Carolina FFA Association's Agricultural Mechanics CDE** on June 23, 2020; **and**

WHEREAS, this achievement will open many doors and avenues for his many talents and abilities to enrich his life and abilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to ***CADE STRICKLAND***. for his high score of ninety-nine (99) on the **North Carolina FFA Association's Agricultural Mechanics CDE**.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 15th day of March, 2021.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ ***RICKY BULLARD***, Chairman

/s/ ***CHRIS SMITH***

/s/ ***LAVERN COLEMAN***

/s/ ***CHARLES T. McDOWELL***

/s/ ***AMANDA B. PRINCE***, County Attorney

/s/ ***JEROME McMILLIAN***, Vice Chairman

/s/ ***GILES E. BYRD***

/S// ***BRENT WATTS***

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ ***JUNE B. HALL***, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Cade Strickland, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Item #7: FINANCE - ANNUAL AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Alan Thompson, Thompson, Price, Scott and Adams and Company, presented the following annual audit results.

February 18, 2021

To the Board of Commissioners
Columbus County
Whiteville, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbus County for the year ended June 30, 2020. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 21, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Columbus County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year. We noted no transactions entered into by Columbus County during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. Significant estimate(s) for the County are allowance for doubtful accounts and depreciation.

The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statement users. There are no such disclosures identified.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. Some of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statement taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representation

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated February 18, 2021.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion:" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Auditing Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Columbus County's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

In reviewing the investment policy, it was noted that there were various reports that should be provided to the Board each year to ensure that the investment accounts are properly monitored. The Board should ensure that the policy is enforced.

The balance sheets required several adjustments to correct the balances of year end. Postings throughout the year are mapped to incorrect accounts, and several cleanup entries are posted to correct these accounts. These accounts should be monitored closely throughout the year and reconciled timely. Efforts should be made to correct these original postings, so significant adjustments won't be needed to correct these balances. Bank reconciliations should be prepared each month, and subsidiary ledgers should be reconciled throughout the year.

There are several projects that need to be closed out. Please review all funds and close out and capitalize projects that should be capitalized. Construction in process needs too be reviewed and projects need to be capitalized that are finished.

When we performed revenue testing, we noted discrepancies in the consistency of charging application fees for permits. In addition, the Water districts have significant balances that were outstanding at June30. Someone needs to focus on outstanding accounts and ensure the collection efforts are made. If the bill is not collectible, the accounts need to be presented to the board to write them off.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Schedule of County's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability (LGERS), Schedule of County Contributions (LGERS), Schedule of County's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Assets (ROD), Schedule of County Contributions (ROD), Schedule of Change in Total Pension Liability - Law Enforcement Officers's Special Separation Allowance and Changes to Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, which is required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquires of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquires, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the combining and individual non-major fund statement schedules, budgetary schedules, and other schedules, and the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquires of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Commissioners and management of Columbus County and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,
/s/ **Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co., P.A.**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to accept the Annual Audit Presentation, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: PUBLIC INPUT (by TELEPHONE, E-MAIL or LETTER).

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Input. No Public Input was received either orally or by letter.

Agenda Item #9: HEALTH - PRE-ORDER of FLU VACCINE:

Kimberly Smith, Health Director, requested Board approval to pre-order the Flu Vaccine

for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the pre-order of the Flu Vaccine for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, at the cost of thirty-four thousand, five hundred fifty-three and 00/100 (\$34,553.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: ANIMAL CONTROL - DELETION of TWO (2) PART-TIME POSITIONS, and APPROVAL of ONE (1) FULL-TIME POSITION:

The Honorable Sheriff Jody Greene, Interim Animal Control Director, requested Board approval to delete two (2) part-time positions, and approve one (1) full-time position.

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the deletion of two (2) part-time positions, and approve one (1) full-time position, at the Animal Control Department, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed

Agenda Item #11: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - APPROVAL of SYSTEM SAFETY PLAN (SSP) and PROPERTY DISPOSITION POLICY:

Joy Jacobs, Public Transportation Director, requested Board approval of the changes to the System Safety Plan (SSP), and Property Disposition Policy.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the changes to the System Safety Plan (SSP), and Property Disposition Policy, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed. Copies of these documents will be on file in the Public Transportation Office, for review.

Agenda Item #12: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the following Monthly Administrative Update for February 2021.

Columbus County DSS continues to participate in the Covid-19 planning team calls during the week. Updates are given on the County's and State's Covid-19 status. Information is shared about resources and vaccines.

On February 11, 2021 I participated in the NC Directors Association call. During his call we received an update on Medicaid Transformation, which will begin in March 2021. The enrollment broker will be starting some outreach via radio ads, focus groups, etc. Individuals will be able to go online or contact the call center to enroll in a health plan. We also learned that the Division of Childhood Development and Early Education has received some federal funds that will be used to pay parent fees to child care providers that are normally paid by parents. This will be done for the months of March and April 2021. The division will send notices to parent, providers, and local DSS agencies.

The state is working on some updates in NCFast that would allow new born babies to be added to Medicaid by hospital staff, which will allow for quicker coverage and help with billing. They are also working on a process called Auto Income Verification, which will be piloted by five counties.

On February 19, 2021, we exhausted all of our Low Income Energy Assistance Program Funds. This program ends on March 31, 2021. We continue to have Crisis Funds to assist individuals with heating cost. This program will end June 30, 2021.

During the month of February, we learned that the Division of Aging and Adult Services will now require local DSS adult staff to start monitoring adult Care homes with Covid-19 outbreaks. We will go into the facility to ensure that they are following the required cleaning and sanitizing protocols. We will report these results to the licensure section. Staff will wear protective equipment when entering these facilities.

Lastly, our building continues to be fogged each morning prior to staff arriving. We continue to provide personal protection equipment to all staff. Common areas are cleaned throughout the day. Washing hands, wearing mask, and social distancing continue to be stressed during work hours.

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 6 County Wards: 26 Number of Payee Cases: 20 Adults Served APS: 3 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 889 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$19,047
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 27 Reports Screened out: 28 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 49 Children Served: 88 Contacts with Families Monthly: 529 Assessments: 14
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 74 Children Placed Outside County: 20 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 4 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 2 Total Children in Foster Care: 78
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 16 Applications Approved: 10 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 247 Entered Employments: 1 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$5,215.08 New Referrals: 3 Cases Established: 0
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 341 Children on the Waiting List: 470 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$132,770.00

**February 2021
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 158 Applications Approved: 203 Active Cases: 6,247 Benefits Issued: \$2,499,341.00 Participants Served: 12,573
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 66 Cases Terminated: 14 Redeterminations: 419 Applications Processed: 127
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 127 Applications Processed: 311 Redeterminations: 670 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,211 Total Individuals Receiving: 46,775
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 38 Orders Enforced: 758 Active Cases: 3,774 Collections: \$398,219.00

Economic Services Program Narrative

Adult Medicaid//Rest Home and Nursing Home/Community Alternatives Program (CAP)
Child Support/Paralegal; Medicaid Transportation; Housekeeping
Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator

Reporting Month: **February 2021**

News/Updates/Vacancies

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

Both Medicaid Departments passed their monthly Report Card and had to complete training on upcoming Audits that the State will be conducting for Phase 3 counties. This will include the State reviewing 20 Medicaid cases monthly for 10 consecutive months; totaling 200 cases beginning April 2021. If programmatic errors are found, there could be charge backs to the county. Currently our Medicaid Supervisors must second party review 88 cases each quarter and report to the State our findings whether it is a technical or programmatic error. Sometimes being error free is difficult with the staff turnover that we experience however we do our best to make sure we are not giving clients benefits they are not entitled to. Currently there are 4 vacancies and 4 new workers in training. Interviews have been scheduled. Adult Medicaid had a new employee work one day in February and the next day gave her resignation.

Food and Nutrition Services:

Certifications continue to be automatically extended for active Food and Nutrition clients. Waivers continue to be in place for those that do not have to work/volunteer so many hours a month in order to receive. This waiver has increased the number of applications placed monthly. It has helped us process applications quicker for the continued waiver of not having to complete an interview. USDA approved for PEBT cards to go out again to those families that have school aged children and those cards will begin going out to families at the end of February. They also approved for those that were not approved in August 2020 for PEBT to get retroactive benefits; Columbus County was a county that was not approved in August 2020 however families will get retroactive benefits plus benefits monthly until the school year is complete. USDA also approved online shopping with an EBT card and Food Lion and Wal-Mart are the local stores that has been approved as partners. We currently have 1 vacancy and 2 in training on this team.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Child Support Court has gone well with the move back to the Courthouse. The district Judge has given us some extra days for court and we were in court for 4 days during February. Collections have dropped partly due to not being in court but will soon pick up due to tax intercepts we will be collecting from for overdue Child Support. They prepared 337 cases for court. Our paralegal prepared 310 orders for February and is currently completing all orders now instead of the attorney completing part of them. We continue to have 4 vacancies on this team; we have interviewed and will be making recommendations.

Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Interpreter/Maintenance and Housekeeping/Deputy:

The Supervisor over this team retired February 4, 2021 and we have reorganized this team. The Adult Medicaid Team has been in need of a Long Term Care Supervisor (LTC) for the Nursing Home, Special Assistance and the Community Alternative Programs, so we moved this position there along with Medicaid Transportation and housekeeping. The WorkFirst Cash team moved with the WorkFirst Employment team under Melinda Lane, Program Manager. The Interpreter will help with the Energy Programs on a permanent basis when not interpreting for the agency along with maintenance under Melinda Lane, Program Manager.

Staff that are working in any program that receives Federal funding had to complete training in February on their responsibilities of offering voter registration and documenting the client's response. It is mandatory that we ask all applicants/recipients if they would like to register to vote; even if they call to change their address, we must ask them if they would like to register to vote. These same staff had to complete training on the American Disability Act. These trainings were virtual and instructed by the State. Civil Rights training was only mandated for FNS and WorkFirst staff.

**HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT
Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for February 2021**

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continue to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. This Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with children, families, and other resource agencies. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and

casework. She plans for an on-site visit in March to review records within this Unit.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to have one vacancy. A recommendation for hire within the agency was recently made from interviews, but that person turned down the offer due to plans to leave the agency for another position. A second recommendation was made from recent interviews. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts, although short-staffed, to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. This Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with children, families, and other resource agencies. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Foster Care/Permanency Planning:

The Foster Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. DHHS does continue to make some allowances for cases that are stable and with parent visitation by allowing the use of FaceTime, video chats, etc., although more face-to-face visits are now being conducted. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. This Unit continues to participate in some “virtual court,” but more in-court cases are beginning to be conducted. This Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with children, families, and other resource agencies. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit continues to have one vacancy. This position will be advertised soon. Staff are working caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. The Foster Home Licensing worker continues to begin to move forward slowly with getting more foster homes licensed since COVID-19 has also affected getting all of the required parts of the licensure packet completed. They are conducting one-on-one time for those that might be interested in completing Deciding Together, instead of the MAPP classes. They have sent out packets in an attempt to recruit and train new prospective foster parents. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to the elderly and disabled while utilizing precautions due to COVID-19. Referrals continue to be about the same and this Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with the elderly and disabled and resource agencies.

Work First Employment:

This Unit continues to be fully staffed. The new Supervisor is up and running, quickly learning about the programs she is supervising. COVID-19 continues to make an impact on how this Unit conducts day to day business. Telephone interviews for Work First applications, recertification's, short-term services and benefits continue to be allowed. Certain necessary application documentation can be mailed to individuals that wish to apply and when received back the worker can conduct telephone interviews to complete that application. Some application information is also being provided for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency. Workers are encouraged to make telephone contacts with clients at least every two weeks to offer support and resources to clients

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. The new Supervisor is up and running, quickly learning about the programs she is supervising. COVID-19 continues to make an impact on how this Unit conducts day to day business. Day Care services are continuing to be provided and the state is working with county agencies and day cares to help them stay open as much as possible while providing a safe environment for children. DSS staff continue to work with families to ensure their services stay in place while limiting contact to the telephone as much as possible.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to be fully staffed with three workers, although one worker was out on medical leave for several days. COVID-19 continues to limit office visits, encouraging telephone contact. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program funds are now exhausted. However, the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) continues to have available funds. Applications are now available on PASS, where applicants can complete and submit applications on-line. Both programs have been very busy since LIEAP opened up to all those that meet the income guidelines. Due to CIP being the only program with available funds right now, temporary staff are gradually being released. In February, 480 applications for LIEAP were completed with 257 approvals and 189 applications for CIP were completed with 87 approvals.

Agenda Item #13: PROCLAMATION - PROCLAMATION by COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD:

Selena Rowell, Executive Director of Columbus County Partnership for Children, request Board approval and adoption of the following Proclamation by Columbus County Commissioners Week of the Young Child..

**Proclamation by Columbus County Commissioners
Week of the Young Child**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the **Week of the Young Child**, April 10 - 16, 2021; **and**

WHEREAS, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Columbus County, North Carolina; **and**

WHEREAS, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Columbus County, North Carolina deserve thanks and recognition; **and**

WHEREAS, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's futures.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners of Whiteville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 10 through April 16, 2021 as the **Week of the Young Child** in Columbus County, North Carolina, and encourage all citizens to work to make a good investment in early childhood in our county.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 15th day of March, 2021.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**, Chairman

/s/ **CHRIS SMITH**

/s/ **LAVERN COLEMAN**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE**, County Attorney

/s/ **JEROME McMILLIAN**, Vice Chairman

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **BRENT WATTS**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation by Columbus County Commissioners Week of the Young Child, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: PROCLAMATION - NORTH CAROLINA 811 SAFE DIGGING MONTH:

Howard Corey, Education Liaison, North Carolina 811, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Columbus County Designation the Month of April, 2021 as "North Carolina Safe Digging Month" Proclamation.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY DESIGNATION the MONTH of April, 2021 as:
"NORTH CAROLINA SAFE DIGGING MONTH" PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, as utility owners, excavators, designers, and homeowners work to keep pace with North Carolina's economic development, it is important to minimize damages to underground utility

lines, danger to workers and the general public, environmental impact, and loss of utility services to the citizens of North Carolina; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina 811, a utility service notification center and leader in education celebrates its 43rd year of continuous service to the State, is key to preventing injuries and damages when excavating; **and**

WHEREAS, this unique service provides easy, one-call notification about construction and excavation projects that may endanger workers and jeopardize utility lines while promoting workplace and public safety, reducing underground utility damage, minimizing utility service interruptions and protecting the environment; **and**

WHEREAS, this vital service, which began in 1978 serves the citizens of North Carolina from the mountains to the coast, educates stakeholders about the need for excavation safety whether the project is as small as planting a tree to designing and beginning construction on a new interstate; **and**

WHEREAS, in 2020, the North Carolina one call system received 2.1 million notification requests and transmitted over 12.2 million requests, providing protection to utility companies infrastructure, their employees, excavators, and customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Columbus County has designated the month of April 2021, as “**North Carolina 811 Safe Digging Month**” to encourage all excavators and homeowners of (County/City NAME) to contact 8-1-1 either by dialing 8-1-1 or contacting NC811 via the webpage of NC811.org at least three working days prior to digging in order to “Know What’s Below,” avoid injury, protect the environment, prevent millions of dollars in damages and to remind excavators that three working days’ notice is the law, for safe digging is no accident, and that more information may be obtained by visiting www.nc811.org.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**, Chairman

/s/ **CHRIS SMITH**

/s/ **LAVERN COLEMAN**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE**, County Attorney

/s/ **JEROME McMILLIAN**, Vice Chairman

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **BRENT WATTS**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve and adopt the North Carolina 811 Safe Digging Month, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: PLANNING - ENTRY/PARTICIPATION into the \CARS (FEMA) PROGRAM:

Samantha Alsup, Planning Director, requested Board approval for the County to apply for entry into the CRS Program (FEMA).

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the County to apply for entry into the \CARS Program (FEMA), seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: PLANNING - DISCUSSION OF THE FOUR (4) LISTED ORDINANCES:

A. ABANDONED STRUCTURE ORDINANCE;

B. PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE;

C. JUNKED VEHICLE ORDINANCE; and

D. SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE.

After a detailed and lengthy discussion was conducted involving the above listed ordinances, it was the general consensus of the Board members and John Ganus, the time limit allowed for each charge needed to be shortened, and the number of cases cited needed to be greater in number.

Agenda Item #17: ORDINANCE - ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE:

The Honorable Sheriff Jody Greene requested to rescind the existing Animal Control Ordinance and replace with the re-written version.

After a short discussion by the Board, it was the general consensus to take time for each Board member to familiarize themselves with this information.

Agenda Item #18: FINANCE - RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS:

Dylan Bowen, Deputy Finance Director requested Board approval of Truist Bank for the interim financing of Cerro Gordo school by Resolution Approving Financing Terms.

WHEREAS, the Columbus County, NC (“Borrower”) has previously determined to finance the Gordo Elementary School Improvements (the “Project”), and the Finance Director has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The borrower hereby determines to finance the Project through Truist Bank (“Lender”) in accordance with the proposal dated March 4, 2021, or as such proposal may be supplemental or amended by Lender and the Borrower verbally or in writing. The amount financed shall not exceed \$16,595,200.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 0.85%, and the financing term shall not exceed two (2) years from the date of closing.
2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the “Financing Documents”) shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the Borrower are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution. The Financing Documents shall include a Financing Agreement and Deed of Trust and such other documents as Lender may request. Pursuant to the Financing Agreement and Deed of Trust, (a) Lender will advance moneys to the Borrower to pay the costs of the Project and the financing costs related thereto, and the Borrower will repay such advance in installments, and (b) the Borrower will grant a lien on the site of the Projects, or positions thereof, together with all fixtures and improvements located thereon, to Lender as security for such advance.
3. The Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to the Finance Director’s satisfaction. The Finance Director is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Borrower officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final form as the Finance Director shall approve, with the Finance Directors release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer’s final approval of the Document’s final form.
4. The Borrower shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations.
5. The Borrower intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the Borrower’s official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Project that are to be financed from the proceeds of the Lender financing described above. The Borrower intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the Borrower’s general fund or any other Borrower fund related to the Project for costs of the Project may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.
6. All prior actions of Borrower officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved this 15th day of March, 2021.

By: /s/ **RICKY BULLARD**
Title: **Chairman**

By: /s/: **DYLAN BOWEN**
Title: **Deputy Finance Director**

(SEAL)

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Financing Terms with Truist Bank, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE ON DASHBOARD:

Dr. Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, delivered the following update on the Dashboard.

1. All of the various areas of interest will not fit on one (1) page;
2. We will need to utilize landed pages;
3. You will see icons that can be clicked on for more in-depth information; **and**
4. We are trying to make the appearance of the page eye catching.

Agenda Item #20: AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING - UPDATE:

Amanda Prince, County Attorney, delivered the following update on the American Legion Building.

1. From the information that I could locate, the American Legion Building, Post 137, was leased in 1986-87 for ten (10) years;
2. The lease was renewed in 1997 and expired in 2007;
3. Lacy Wilson states this building is used as a precinct; **and**
4. We need to renew the lease.

Agenda Item #21: ADMINISTRATION - HURRICANE MATTHEW DRA 17 CONTRACTS:

Gail Edwards, Assistant to the Manager, requested Board approval of the contracts for 17436 Sam Potts Highway and 209 McMillian Road.

Gail Edwards stated the following:

1. Columbus County was awarded \$1,000,000.00 from Hurricane Matthew DRA 17;
2. We have enough funds available for these two (2) additional houses to be added;
3. The additional houses to add are as follows:

Janie H. Robinson, 17436 Sam Potts Highway, Bolton, NC 28443;
Contract Amount: \$106,740.00; **and**

Margaret McMillian, 209 McMillian Road, Whiteville, NC 28472;
Contract Amount: \$87,900.00; **and**

4. Board approval is needed to add these two (2) houses.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the addition of the two (2) additional houses to the funds received for Hurricane Matthew DRA 17, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: APPOINTMENTS: ONE (1) MILE RADIUS MEMBERS for CHADBOURN PLANNING and ZONING BOARD -and - CHADBOURN BOARD of ADJUSTMENT.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint the following member to the Chadbourn Planning and Zoning Board as the One-Mile Radius member, and following member to the Chadbourn Board of Adjustment as the One-Mile Radius member.

Chadbourn Planning and Zoning Board: **One Mile Radius**
William Blake Telephone: (910) 625-5368

Chadbourn Board of Adjustment: **One Mile Radius**
Jeremy Kennedy - Telephone: (910) 840-6417

A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Bullard, Vice Chairman McMillian, Commissioners Smith, McDowell, Byrd and Watts; **and**
NAYS: Commissioner Watts.

The motion passes on a six (6) to one (1) vote.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING:

At 8:27 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V:

Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V - February 15, 2021 Minutes.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each Water District respectively.

Agenda Item #24: Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V - CCU Contracts for SCADA:

Leo Green, Engineer, requested Board approval of the quotation from Custom Controls Unlimited to convert the existing SCADA system to VerSCADA.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each Water District respectively.

ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING

At 8:35 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-4310-519909	Special Services	25,000
Revenues	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	25,000
Expenditures	10-4155-512100	Salaries Regular	51,000
	10-4155-518100	FICA	3,902
	10-4155-522000	Food and Provisions	4,555
	10-4155-526000	Office Supplies	625
	10-4155-531100	Travel	16,625
	10-4155-532000	Communications	2,073
	10-4155-537000	Advertising	3,000

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
	10-4155-539000	Other Services	2,506
	10-4155-549000	Dues and Subscriptions	915
Revenues	10-3416-436025	NC JCPC Grant	84,201
	10-3416-489040	Miscellaneous	1,000
Expenditures	17-4213-512100	COVID-19 Salaries	123,380
	17-4213-512700	COVID-19 Longevity	250
	17-4213-518100	COVID-19 FICA	8,000
	17-42130518300	COVID-19 Retirement Contribution	8,000
	17-4213-518301	COVID-19 Insurance Contribution	8,000
	17-4213-526001	COVID-19 Departmental Supplies	5,000
	17-4213-519001	COVID-19 Contracted Services	25,000
Revenues	17-3581-430172	COVID-19 Grant	177,630

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

<i>Proeprty Value</i>		Amount:	\$57.96
Ward, Alfred Ray (II)	PROPERTY: 89010	Total:	\$64.44
Value: \$7,200.00	Year: 2020	Account: 03-03832	Bill#: 4414
Release had already paid. Release Brunswick Fire(5.04) release Columbus Rescue(1.44)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
All Creatures Great and Small	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$11.74
Value: \$2,216.00	Year: 2020	Account: 01-00370	Bill#: 17089
Release not in city limits			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$2,223.40
Benton, Perry Martin	PROPERTY: 358	Total:	\$2,499.60
Value: \$69,050.00	Year: 16-19	Account: 01-05482	Bill#: 99999
Release value should have been exempt under Martin Benton. Release North Whiteville(220.96) release Whiteville Rescue(55.24)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$1,334.68
Branch, Herbert Leslie	PROPERTY: 20682	Total:	\$1,533.64
Value: \$41,450.00	Year: 17-20	Account: 12-02260	Bill#: 99999
Release value should have been exempt. Release Cerro Gordo Fire(165.80) release columbu sRescue(33.16)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$28.18
Costello William	PROPERTY: 20321	Total:	\$279.46
Value: \$64,100.00	Year: 2019	Account: 11-06745	Bill#: 93299
Release should have been partially exempt. Release Hallsboro Fire(38.46) release columbus Rescue(12.82)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$24.41
Fonvielle, Jacob Aaron	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$30.86
Value: \$3,032.00	Year: 2020	Account: 06-02918	Bill#: 70665
Release value of boat. Sold.			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$2,524.30
Hardee, Sanford Neil	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$2,775.16
Value: \$54,949.00	Year: 16-	Account: 09-12460	Bill#: 99999
Release value of farm equipment. Should have been released 2016. Release Williams fire(188.14) release Columbus Rescue(62.72)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Williamson, Rickey MC & Gail	PROPERTY: 75971	Total:	\$6.28
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 12-31647	Bill#: 7480
Release missed discount. Release Cerro Gordo Fire(3.82) release Columbus Rescue(2.46)			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00

Council, Kimberly N & Karen J. & Pamela	PROPERTY: 92539	Total:	\$600.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 18-20	Account: 09-03719	Bill#:	99999
Refund user fees. Dbilled on Act#09-01151.			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Reaves, Eugene Jr & Linda Ann	PROPERTY: 96137	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2019	Account: 09-00454	Bill#:	21113
Refund user fee. Double billed in error.			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Wright, Sandra S	PROPERTY: 17334	Total:	\$600.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 18-20	Account: 09-04044	Bill#:	99999
Refund user fees Sold house and moved 2018.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Blackman, Johnny Allen	PROPERTY: 6449	Total:	\$46.13
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 03-01360	Bill#:	59366
Release value of boat sold 3 years ago.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Dale, Connie Fay	PROPERTY: 100900	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 15-03925	Bill#:	66459
Release user fee. Unliveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Daniel, James Eddie & Joyce	PROPERTY: 77738	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 15-03416	Bill#:	66529
Release user fee. Unliveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Deal, Daisy Lee & Gary Dean	PROPERTY: 21897	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 12-06414	Bill#:	67124
Release user fee. Not liveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Fowler, Sandra M.	PROPERTY: 15728	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 09-02942	Bill#:	71194
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Gibson, Daniel	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$113.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 11-01150	Bill#:	72657
Release user fee. Unliveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
McPherson, Harry Lee	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$600.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 09-18660	Bill#:	86864
Release user fee. Mobile homes are gone.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
McPherson, John Phillip II	PROPERTY: 6202	Total:	\$226.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 01-02365	Bill#:	6202
Release user fee. Overbilled			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
McPherson, Judy Wright & Renee	PROPERTY: 15703	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 09-02138	Bill#:	86974
Release user fee. Dbilled			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Mills, William	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 14-05137	Bill#:	87878
Release user fee. Dbilled			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Moore, Shane Allan	PROPERTY: 13482	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 07-05905	Bill#:	88610
Release user fee. Dbilled.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Nealy, Theatus(Deceased)	PROPERTY: 16496	Total:	\$199.56
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 09-21903	Bill#:	89476
Release user fee. No can			

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
New Covenant Faith Bible Church	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 13-00741	Bill#:	89552
Release user fee. Double billed.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Powell, Robert Lee & Martha W	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 15-30600	Bill#:	92496
Release user fee. No longer a can.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Reaves, Cecil Brent & Michael Cory	PROPERTY: 97672	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 15-02276	Bill#:	93724
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Red Hill Church	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$400.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 19-20	Account: 15-50130	Bill#:	99999
Release user fee. No longer living t this address.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Red Hill Pentecostal Church	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 15-05704	Bill#:	50299
Release user fee. Can paid by resident.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Simmons, James Edward	PROPERTY: 75071	Total:	\$374.31
Value: \$0.00 Year: 18/20	Account: 07-14497	Bill#:	99999
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Vontrina Investments LLC	PROPERTY: 80296	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 15-04952	Bill#:	3835
Release user fee. Burned 2019.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Vontrina Investments, LLC	PROPERTY: 92293	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 14-01742	Bill#:	3834
Release user fee. No can			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Walker, Billy Ray & Edna	PROPERTY: 5737	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 01-99160	Bill#:	4077
Release user fee. Paid on account# 7-18460			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Ward, W Howard JR.	PROPERTY: 17145	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 09-01058	Bill#:	5267
Release user fee. Vacant			

Agenda Item #26: COMMENTS:

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Watts:** stated I encourage everyone to get the shots for COVID-19.
2. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 - We need to get the vaccines for COVID-19 to the elderly and the shutins who cannot leave their houses; **and**
 - I understand there are 2,000 vaccines for COVID-19 available on Saturday so we need to encourage everyone to get their vaccine.
3. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated there were many citizens who wanted to sign up for the County water but did not want to give their Social Security number in the process. I would like to know why they need to give their Social Security number.

Amanda Prince, County Attorney, replied stating this request was part of the Debt Setoff Program.

4. **Commissioner Smith:** stated the following:
 - The Recycling Centers need to adjust their hours of being open to help the citizens of Columbus County to dispose of their trash; **and**
 - Columbus County is widely noted for having excessive litter and trash along the public highways.

5. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 - My recommendation for the Recycling Centers is for the centers in close proximity to rotate the days they are closed to give more access to our citizens;
 - We are having numerous flooding problems throughout Columbus County, and I would like for a letter to be prepared to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, requesting the City of Whiteville, Town of Bolton, Town of Lake Waccamaw, and the Town of Brunswick to sign off on this letter; **and**
 - These areas are heavily affected by Waccamaw River, and this letter will be copied to our State and Federal representatives.

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion for a letter to be prepared and sent to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, relative to the bridge replacements in Columbus County in the year 2026, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

6. **Commissioner Coleman:** stated the following:
 - I would like to thank the employees, especially the employees of the Health Department, for working hard in this challenge; **and**
 - The vaccine is here now, and please go out and get the vaccine.

7. **Chairman Bullard:** stated the following:
 - We have had contact with Lee Dixon with the architects this week about the Historic Courthouse in Whiteville;
 - Mr. Dixon is working on the asbestos and he thinks it will take about fifty-one (51) days, and design; **and**
 - The bids should be held in October, 2021, or November, 2021.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 318.11(a) (5)(i) REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION and (6) PERSONNEL:

At 8:47 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (5) (i) Real Property acquisition and (6) Personnel, after a five (5) minutes recess, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #27: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) (i) REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, and (6) PERSONNEL:

No official was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 10:09 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Bullard requested that Amanda Prince, County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: *“The County Commissioners discussed real property acquisition with Gary Lanier and Amanda Prince, the County Commissioners discussed personnel matters with Sheriff Greene, and the County Commissioners discussed other personnel matters. No action was taken.”*

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Closed Session General Account, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to appoint Jay Leatherman as the Interim Finance Director, with signing authority, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #28: ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:11 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 15, 2021
8:27 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the February 15, 2021 Minutes for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - CCU CONTRACTS for SCADA:

Leo Green, Engineer, requested Board approval of the quotation from Custom Controls Unlimited to convert the existing SCADA system to VerSCADA.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the contracts for SCADA with Custom Controls Unlimited, at the cost of one hundred forty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy and 00/100 (\$149,770.00) dollars, for the conversion of the existing SCADA System to VerSCADA, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, March 15, 2021

8:27 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the February 15, 2021 Minutes for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - CCU CONTRACTS for SCADA:

Leo Green, Engineer, requested Board approval of the quotation from Custom Controls Unlimited to convert the existing SCADA system to VerSCADA.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the contracts for SCADA with Custom Controls Unlimited, at the cost of one hundred forty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy and 00/100 (\$149,770.00) dollars, for the conversion of the existing SCADA System to VerSCADA, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, March 15, 2021

8:27 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the February 15, 2021 Minutes for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - CCU CONTRACTS for SCADA:

Leo Green, Engineer, requested Board approval of the quotation from Custom Controls Unlimited to convert the existing SCADA system to VerSCADA.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the contracts for SCADA with Custom Controls Unlimited, at the cost of one hundred forty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy and 00/100 (\$149,770.00) dollars, for the conversion of the existing SCADA System to VerSCADA, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, March 15, 2021

8:27 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the February 15, 2021 Minutes for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - CCU CONTRACTS for SCADA:

Leo Green, Engineer, requested Board approval of the quotation from Custom Controls Unlimited to convert the existing SCADA system to VerSCADA.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the contracts for SCADA with Custom Controls Unlimited, at the cost of one hundred forty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy and 00/100 (\$149,770.00) dollars, for the conversion of the existing SCADA System to VerSCADA, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 15, 2021
8:27 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the February 15, 2021 Minutes for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - CCU CONTRACTS for SCADA:

Leo Green, Engineer, requested Board approval of the quotation from Custom Controls Unlimited to convert the existing SCADA system to VerSCADA.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the contracts for SCADA with Custom Controls Unlimited, at the cost of one hundred forty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy and 00/100 (\$149,770.00) dollars, for the conversion of the existing SCADA System to VerSCADA, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman